

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12, 14-15, 17-19, 22, 24, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,412,945 to Katoh. Applicant hereby amends claim 1 and respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Tran to Applicant's representative in the telephone conference conducted on April 30, 2007 in which Examiner Tran admitted that the rejection using Katoh should only apply to pending claims 1-5, and the personal interview conducted on May 23, 2007. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the latter interview are contained in the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,412,945 to Katoh. The Office Action asserts that Katoh discloses each claimed feature. Applicant hereby amends instant claim 1, and respectfully traverses the rejection.

As discussed with Examiner Tran during the May 23, 2007 personal interview, amended instant independent claim 1, from which claims 2-5 depend, more fully clarifies that the amount of oxygen storage component on the upstream side portion of the carrier is less than the amount of oxygen storage component on the downstream side portion.

In contrast, Katoh discloses no oxygen storage component. Rather, Katoh discloses a catalyst in which at least one substance selected from alkali metals, alkali-earth metals and rare-earth metals, and precious metals such as platinum, is carried on the carrier of the NO_x absorbent. The amount of such alkali-earth metals or rare-earth metals is decreased from upstream to downstream in Katoh. See Katoh, col. 6, lines 22-40. Katoh describes no oxygen storage component, e.g., cerium, carried on its carrier. To summarize the similarities and differences between the present invention in Katoh, please refer to the following table.

	alkali metals, alkali-earth metals, or rare-earth metals	NOx storage capacity (e.g., amount of Pt)	Oxygen storage component (amount of CeO ₂)
Applicant's Claimed Invention	—	Upstream > Downstream	Upstream < Downstream
Katoh	Upstream > Downstream	—	Not carried

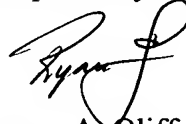
For at least the foregoing reasons, instant amended claim 1, from which claims 2-5 depend, is not anticipated by Katoh. Reconsideration and withdraw of the rejection are earnestly solicited.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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